THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The Eleventh Plan has not been finalized. A substantial expansion in higher educational institutions and quality enhancement is envisaged in the Eleventh Plan, including setting up of a Central University in each State, such as Tamil Nadu, which does not have a Central University at present.

Supreme Court bench in the South

2816. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4184, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th May, 2007 and state:

(a) whether Government propose to take up the matter of setting up of a bench of Supreme Court in South again with the Supreme Court and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to bring an amendment to the Constitution in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The matter of setting up of a Bench of Supreme Court in other parts of the country was taken up again with the Supreme Court for its reconsideration. The Supreme Court informed that after reconsideration of the matter, the Full Court, in its meeting held on 7th August, 2007 found no justification for deviating from its earlier resolution on the subject and did not favour setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi. The Government do not propose to bring an amendment to the Constitution.

Issue of voters' identity cards

2817. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to issue electors' identity cards to all the citizens of the country;

(b) if so, the number of voters covered so far and supplied with the identity cards, State-wise; and

(c) by when the remaining citizens are likely to be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement showing the number of Elector's Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) issued in various States/Union Territories provided by the Election Commission of India is laid on the Table of the House (*See* below).